

# The Environmental Cleanup of Marine Corps Air Station Tustin

February 1995

Tustin, California

No. 3

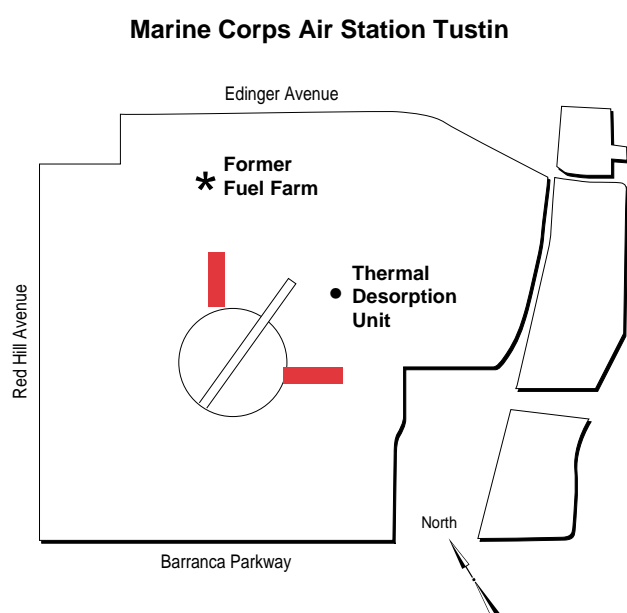


## Soil Treatment Process Selected for Cleanup of Former Fuel Farm Area

**T**he cleanup of contaminated soil at a former fuel farm and an adjacent tank area at the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) in Tustin has moved a step closer to reality with the selection of both a process to treat contaminated soil and a Remedial Action Contractor to clean up the site.

A fast-track investigation and evaluation of proven technologies led the Navy/Marine Corps, as well as state and federal regulators, to choose a process known as “thermal desorption” as an efficient and cost effective way to remove contaminants and prepare the property for reuse. The selected contractor, OHM Remediation Services Corp., will begin soil treatment operations at the base in the summer of 1995.

“Experience at similar sites shows this method to be very effective and flexible, which helps achieve our goals at Tustin in the shortest possible time,” said Desire Chandler, Base Realignment and Closure Environmental Coordinator. “Our primary objective all along has been to achieve cleanup levels consistent with the designated reuse. Through the use of this technology, I feel confident that we have taken a first major step toward realizing this goal.”



MCAS Tustin’s Restoration Advisory Board also has reviewed the recommended cleanup alternatives and has concurred with the Navy/Marine Corps on the selection of the thermal desorption process. The advisory board will be briefed on the status of the project as part of its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 22, in the Clifton Miller Center, Tustin City

Hall, 300 Centennial Way. The meeting is open to the public.

A site designated for initial treatment by thermal desorption, Underground Storage Tank Area 22 (formerly Site 16), was the location for 39 underground tanks—since removed—where gasoline, aviation gasoline, heating oil, and diesel fuel were stored (for location see Former Fuel Farm on map insert). Thermal desorption also will be used to treat an area adjacent to Aboveground Storage Tanks 169/170, a location that contains two aboveground JP-5 fuel tanks, located just south of the former fuel farm.

Underground storage tanks that contained heating oil, gasoline, or a combination of both, were removed from various locations around the base. Following the removal of these tanks, investigations confirmed contamination of the soil by petroleum hydrocarbons, a main component of these fuels. The thermal desorption unit also will be used to expedite soil treatment at these former tank sites.

Thermal desorption is considered ideal for removing hydrocarbons from soils similar to those at the fuel farm area. The process involves heating contaminated soil to relatively low temperatures (about 200-1,000 degrees Fahrenheit), thereby vaporizing the contaminants. The vapors are then captured in a self-contained air system. The technology requires less time than bioremediation or soil vapor extraction and it can be implemented rapidly.

The cleanup of Underground Storage Tank Area 22 and other former underground storage tank locations is the first critical step toward achieving quick and efficient transfer of MCAS Tustin.

### Information Repository

Documents relating to the environmental restoration efforts at MCAS Tustin are available for public review at the information repository.

University of California, Irvine  
Main Library  
Government Publications Department  
Contact: Yvonne Wilson, 714-824-7362  
or 824-6836 for library hours.

The community may also contact the representatives listed in “For Additional Information” to arrange review of these documents.

# Restoration Advisory Board Up and Running

Members of the community-based board monitoring environmental cleanup activities at the Marine Corps Air Station in Tustin have accelerated their meeting schedule while focusing their efforts on the review of technical documents that support restoration activities.

The group—known as the Restoration Advisory Board—was created in June 1994. Now meeting monthly, the board recently adopted a mission statement and has provided feedback to the Navy/Marine Corps on a variety of issues. For example, members have already exchanged comments and opinions with military and regulatory agency personnel regarding restoration activities at Site 1 (Moffett Trenches and Crash Crew Burn Pits), as well as Sites 16A and 16C, recently renamed Underground Storage Tank Area 22 and Aboveground Storage Tanks 169/170, respectively.

Desire Chandler, Base Realignment and Closure Environmental Coordinator and Marine Corps Cochair to the board, along with Community Cochair Joe Tucker, are taking the group’s comments back to the environmental project team for consideration and possible incorporation into restoration efforts.

An informational session on the hydrogeology and geology of the Tustin base and surrounding area was held January 26. A series of briefings and informational exchanges will be held throughout the cleanup process.

The board, comprised of members who either live in or serve Orange County, serves as a forum for the

## For Additional Information

If you have any questions or concerns about environmental activities at MCAS Tustin, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Project Team would like to hear from you. Please feel free to contact any of these team representatives:

**Arthur Chasin**  
Community Point-of-Contact, MCAS Tustin  
(714) 726-6607

**1st Lt. Brad Bartelt**  
BRAC Public Affairs Officer,  
Marine Corps Air Bases, Western Area  
(714) 726-3853

**Claire Best**  
Public Participation Specialist,  
California State Environmental Protection Agency  
(310) 590-4949

discussion and exchange of information related to ongoing environmental cleanup activities at the base. The group was established in order to increase public involvement in the restoration effort.

Residents interested in learning more about the cleanup plans for Underground Storage Tank Area 22 and Aboveground Storage Tanks 169/170, as well as other environmental restoration issues, are invited to attend the next board meeting Wednesday, February 22. Subsequent meetings are planned for Wednesday, March 22, and Thursday, April 20, 1995.

If you would like to receive the board’s meeting notices, minutes, special workshop announcements, and information regarding membership, please complete and return the mailing coupon below.

### Mailing Coupon

- ☐ I would like to be added to the MCAS Tustin environmental restoration program mailing list.
- ☐ I would like to be added to the MCAS Tustin Restoration Advisory Board mailing list.
- ☐ I would like to receive information on Board Membership.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Commanding General, Attn: Arthur Chasin-Code 1AU, MCAS El Toro, P.O. Box 95001, Santa Ana, CA 92709-5001

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